What is claimed is:

1. A method of selecting a program which meets a user's taste from broadcast programs and recording the selected program in automatic broadcast recording apparatus in a system having a server and the automatic broadcast recording apparatus, comprising the steps of:

at said server:

disclosing timer recording pattern information for recording programs recommended by an opinion leader who serves to recommend the programs to be appreciated to the user;

at each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus:

acquiring said timer recording pattern information of the opinion leader selected by said user;

setting timer recording for a program determined by said timer recording pattern information; and

receiving the program set for timer recording and recording the received program.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said broadcast programs include video data and audio data.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said broadcast programs include audio data.

4. A method according to claim 1, further com-
prising the step of:

acquiring program information including identi-
fication codes of the broadcast programs and broadcasting

5   dates and times thereof at each of said automatic broad-
cast recording apparatus;

wherein said timer recording pattern informa-
tion includes identification codes of the programs recom-
mended by said opinion leader; and

10   wherein said step of setting timer recording
for a program determined by said timer recording pattern
information at each of said automatic broadcast recording
apparatus includes the step of selecting the program from
said program information.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein said
timer recording pattern information includes start-of-
program times and end-of-program times of the programs
recommended by the opinion leader; and

5   wherein said step of setting timer recording
for a program determined by said timer recording pattern
information at each of said automatic broadcast recording
apparatus includes the step of selecting the program from
the start-of-program time and end-of-program time thereof.

6. A method according to claim 1, further com-
prising the steps of:

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at each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus:

recording a playback history including information of whether the recorded program is played back or not; and

selecting an opinion leader who meets the user's taste based on said playback history.

7. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

at each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus:

recording a timer recording history including information of programs set for timer recording; and

selecting an opinion leader who meets the user's taste based on said timer recording history.

8. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

at each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus:

recording a recording history including information of recorded programs; and

selecting an opinion leader who meets the user's taste based on said recording history.

9. A method according to claim 4, further com-
prising the steps of:

at each of said automatic broadcast recording
apparatus:

5   confirming the broadcasting date and time of a
program to be recorded from said program information when
the program information is acquired, and correcting the
broadcasting date and time if the broadcasting date and
time have been changed.

10. A method of accumulating programs which
meet a user's taste in a system having a server and auto-
matic broadcast recording apparatus by recording broadcast
programs in the automatic broadcast recording apparatus,
5   comprising the steps of:

at each of said automatic broadcast recording
apparatus:

sending information of playback statuses of re-
corded programs to said server;

10   at said server:

collecting said information of each program
sent from each of said automatic broadcast recording appa-
ratus of respective users, and calculating a taste level
indicative of how much each program meets the user's
15   taste;

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sending said taste level to each of said auto-
matic broadcast recording apparatus of respective users;
and

at each of said automatic broadcast recording

20 apparatus:

deleting recorded programs successively from
programs of lower taste levels.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein
said information includes information of whether each of
the recorded programs has been played back to its end or
not.

12. A method according to claim 10, wherein
said information includes information of whether each of
the recorded programs has been deleted or not.

13. A method of accumulating programs which
meet a user's taste by recording broadcast programs in a
system having a server and automatic broadcast recording
apparatus, comprising the steps of:

5 at each of said automatic broadcast recording
apparatus:

sending information of playback statuses of re-
corded programs to said server;

at said server:

10   collecting said information of each program
sent from each of said automatic broadcast recording appa-
ratus of respective users, and calculating a taste level
indicative of how much each program meets the user's
taste;

15   sending said taste level to each of said auto-
matic broadcast recording apparatus of respective users;

            at each of said automatic broadcast recording
apparatus:

            if a program recorded in the past needs to be
20   deleted in order to record a new program, comparing a pre-
determined taste level given to said new program with the
taste level of the program recorded in the past;

            if there is a program whose taste level is
lower than said new program among programs recorded in the
25   past, deleting the program whose taste level is lower than
said new program, and recording the new program; and

            if there is no program whose taste level is
lower than said new program among programs recorded in the
past, stopping recording said new program.

            14. A method according to claim 13, wherein
said information includes information of whether each of
the recorded programs has been played back to its end or
not.

15. A method according to claim 13, wherein said information includes information of whether each of the recorded programs has been deleted or not.

16. A method of accumulating programs which meet a user's taste in a system having a server and auto-matic broadcast recording apparatus, comprising the steps of:

5   at each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus:

sending information of playback statuses of re-corded programs to said server;

at said server:

10   collecting said information of each program sent from each of said automatic broadcast recording appa-ratus of respective users in each of groups of users hav-ing similar appreciating histories, and calculating, in each of said groups, a taste level indicative of how much

15 each program meets the user's taste;

sending said taste level to each of said auto-matic broadcast recording apparatus of the users belonging to the respective groups; and

at each of said automatic broadcast recording

20 apparatus:

deleting recorded programs successively from programs of lower taste levels.

17. A method according to claim 16, wherein said information includes information of whether each of the recorded programs has been played back to its end or not.

18. A method according to claim 16, wherein said information includes information of whether each of the recorded programs has been deleted or not.

19. A method of accumulating programs which meet a user's taste in a system having a server and automatic broadcast recording apparatus, comprising the steps of:

5   at each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus:

sending information of playback statuses of recorded programs to said server;

at said server:

10   collecting said information of each program sent from each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus of respective users in each of groups of users having similar appreciating histories, and calculating, in each of said groups, a taste level indicative of how much

15 each program meets the user's taste;

sending said taste level to each of said automatic broadcast recording apparatus of the users belonging to the respective groups; and

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at each of said automatic broadcast recording

20   apparatus:

if a program recorded in the past needs to be
deleted in order to record a new program, comparing a pre-
determined taste level given to said new program with the
taste level of the program recorded in the past;

25   if there is a program whose taste level is
lower than said new program among programs recorded in the
past, deleting the program whose taste level is lower than
said new program, and recording the new program; and

if there is no program whose taste level is

30   lower than said new program among programs recorded in the
past, stopping recording said new program.

20. A method according to claim 19, wherein
said information includes information of whether each of
the recorded programs has been played back to its end or
not.

21. A method according to claim 19, wherein
said information includes information of whether each of
the recorded programs has been deleted or not.

22. A method of selecting a program which meets
a user's taste from broadcast programs and recording the
selected program in automatic broadcast recording appara-

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tus in a system having a server and the automatic broad-

5   cast recording apparatus, comprising the steps of:

at said server:

disclosing timer recording pattern information
for recording programs selected according to respective
predetermined selecting standards from the broadcast pro-

10 grams;

at each of said automatic broadcast recording
apparatus:

acquiring said timer recording pattern informa-
tion selected by said user;

15 setting timer recording for a program deter-
mined by said timer recording pattern information; and

receiving the program set for timer recording
and recording the received program.

23. An apparatus for automatically selecting
and recording a program which meets a user's taste from
broadcast programs, comprising:

information acquiring means for acquiring timer

5   recording pattern information for recording programs rec-
ommended by an opinion leader who is selected by the user
and serves to recommend the programs to be appreciated to
the user;

timer recording means for setting timer re-

10 cording for a program determined by said timer recording
pattern information;

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receiving means for receiving the program set
for timer recording; and

recording and playing means for recording the
15   program.

24. An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein
said broadcast programs include video data and audio data.

25. An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein
said broadcast programs include audio data.

26. An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein
said timer recording pattern information includes identi-
fication codes of the programs recommended by said opinion
leader, said information acquiring means acquires program
5   information including identification codes of the broad-
cast programs and broadcasting dates and times thereof,
and said timer recording means selects the program deter-
mined by said timer recording pattern information from
said program information and sets timer recording for the
10   selected program.

27. An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein
said timer recording pattern information includes start-
of-program times and end-of-program times of the programs
recommended by the opinion leader, and said timer re-
5   cording means sets timer recording for the program deter-

mined by said timer recording pattern information accord-
ing to the start-of-program time and end-of-program time
thereof.

      28. An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein
said recording and playing means records a playback his-
tory including information of whether the recorded program
is played back or not, and selects an opinion leader who
5   meets the user's taste based on said playback history.

      29. An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein
said timer recording means records a timer recording his-
tory including information of programs set for timer re-
cording, and selects an opinion leader who meets the
5   user's taste based on said timer recording history.

      30. An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein
said recording and playing means records a recording his-
tory including information of recorded programs, and se-
lects an opinion leader who meets the user's taste based
5   on said recording history.

      31. An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein
said timer recording means confirms the broadcasting date
and time of a program to be recorded from said program in-
formation when the program information is acquired by said
5   information acquiring means, and corrects the broadcasting

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date and time if the broadcasting date and time has been changed.

32. An apparatus for accumulating programs which meet a user's taste by recording broadcast programs, comprising:

recording and reproducing means for sending in-
5 formation of playback statuses of recorded programs to a server, which calculates a taste level indicative of how much each program meets the user's taste, and deleting recorded programs successively from programs of lower taste levels sent from said server, when recorded programs are
10 to be deleted; and

information acquiring means for receiving said taste level from said server which has collected said information of each program sent from each of respective users.

33. An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said information includes information of whether each of the recorded programs has been played back to its end or not.

34. An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said information includes information of whether each of the recorded programs has been deleted or not.

35. An apparatus for accumulating programs which meet a user's taste by recording broadcast programs, comprising:

recording and playing means for sending infor-
5   mation of playback statuses of recorded programs to a
server, which calculates a taste level indicative of how
much each program meets the user's taste, and, if a pro-
gram recorded in the past needs to be deleted in order to
record a new program, comparing a predetermined taste
10   level given to said new program with the taste level of
the program recorded in the past, and if there is a pro-
gram whose taste level is lower than said new program
among programs recorded in the past, deleting the program
whose taste level is lower than said new program, and re-
15   cording the new program, and if there is no program whose
taste level is lower than said new program among programs
recorded in the past, stopping recording said new program;
and

information acquiring means for receiving said
20   taste level from said server which has collected said in-
formation of each program sent from each of respective us-
ers.

36. An apparatus according to claim 35, wherein
said information includes information of whether each of
the recorded programs has been played back to its end or
not.

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37. An apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said information includes information of whether each of the recorded programs has been deleted or not.

38. An apparatus for selecting a program which meets a user's taste from broadcast programs, comprising:

information acquiring means for acquiring timer recording pattern information selected by the user among

5   timer recording pattern information for recording programs selected according to respective predetermined selecting criteria;

timer recording means for setting timer recording for a program determined by said timer recording

10   pattern information;

receiving means for receiving the program set for timer recording; and

recording means for recording the received program.

39. A computer program for enabling a computer to perform a process of providing a user with information to select a program which meets the user's taste, comprising:

5   an instruction set for disclosing a web page through a communication network;

an instruction set for storing, in a memory, timer recording pattern information for recording programs recommended by an opinion leader who serves to recommend the programs to be appreciated to the user; and

an instruction set for displaying the timer recording pattern information on said web page for each opinion leader.

40. A computer program according to claim 39, wherein said timer recording pattern information includes identification codes of the programs recommended by said opinion leader.

41. A computer program according to claim 39, wherein said timer recording pattern information includes start-of-program times and end-of-program times of the programs recommended by the opinion leader.

42. A computer program for enabling a computer to perform a process of providing a user with information to select a program which meets the user's taste, comprising:

an instruction set for receiving information of playback statuses of recorded programs from a plurality of users;

an instruction set for collecting said information of each program sent from each of said users, and

10   calculating a taste level indicative of how much each pro-

gram meets the user's taste; and

            an instruction set for sending said taste level

to each of said users.

            43. A computer program according to claim 42,

wherein said information includes information of whether

each of the recorded programs has been played back to its

end or not.

            44. A computer program according to claim 42,

wherein said information includes information of whether

each of the recorded programs has been deleted or not.

            45. A computer program for enabling a computer

to perform a process of providing a user with information

to select a program which meets the user's taste, compris-

ing:

5   an instruction set for receiving information of

playback statuses of recorded programs from each user;

            an instruction set for collecting said informa-

tion of each program sent from each user in each of groups

of users having similar appreciating histories, and calcu-

10   lating, in each of said groups, a taste level indicative

of how much each program meets the user's taste; and

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an instruction set for sending said taste level to each of the users belonging to the respective groups in said server.

46. A computer program according to claim 45, wherein said information includes information of whether each of the recorded programs has been played back to its end or not.

47. A computer program according to claim 45, wherein said information includes information of whether each of the recorded programs has been deleted or not.

48. A computer program for enabling a computer to perform a process of providing a user with information to select a program which meets the user's taste, comprising:

5   an instruction set for disclosing a web page through a communication network;

an instruction set for storing, in a memory, timer recording pattern information for the user to record programs selected according to respective predetermined

10 selecting standards; and

an instruction set for displaying each said timer recording pattern information on said web page.